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December 17th, 1959

COCOM Document No. 3712.NI 1/2

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

ON

NEW ELECTRICAL AND POWER-GENERATING ITEM NO. 1

9th December, 1959

Present: Belgium (Luxembourg), France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM Documents Nos. 3700.5, 3712.00/1, 3712.NI 1/1, New Item No. 1/W.P.1 and 2.

1. At the opening of the second round of discussion, the GERMAN Delegate recalled that in another connection the United Kingdom Delegate had drawn the Committee's attention to the need, before adding any new item to the International Lists, to make quite sure that the definition would not cover products which ought not to be covered, and to the desirability of an understanding that the matter should be open to review at any time.
2. These sentiments were endorsed by the FRENCH, ITALIAN and UNITED KINGDOM Delegations.
3. The GERMAN Delegate then stated that up to the present his authorities had found no evidence that the use of these welders was predominantly strategic, which they assumed to have been the criterion invoked by the United States Delegation. He felt that no embargo should be contemplated until the uses of the equipment had been evaluated more fully. He added that in Germany these welders were used in the electrotechnical industry, in the machine-tool industry and in chemical and other manufacturing processes.
4. The FRENCH Delegate stated that his authorities did not consider that an embargo would be justified. The technique was not unknown, nor was it in any way exclusive. Although it was possible to make use of such equipment for military components, the normal usage in the West seemed to be civilian. Pending receipt of fuller information, therefore, the French Delegation opposed the embargo.
5. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate stated that this type of equipment, which was put to a variety of uses in the United Kingdom, was purchased from France, and therefore it was from the French Delegation that he would seek enlightenment.
6. The UNITED STATES Delegate stated that the United States too had imported one such equipment from France, and another had been manufactured in the United States to French licence. According to information he had received, such welders were being used in France by the Atomic Energy Commission.
7. The UNITED STATES Delegate repeated that this type of welder had recently made it possible to weld such metals as molybdenum, aluminium, tungsten, tantalum, beryllium, hafnium, zirconium, columbium and yttrium. These were either difficult or impossible to weld by other methods. It was expected in the United States that very shortly the electron beam welder would be used to weld the refractory metals and high temperature alloys used in nuclear, electronic, and missile production.

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8. The ITALIAN Delegate (ad referendum), the JAPANESE Delegate and the NETHERLANDS Delegate were prepared to join the majority views.
9. The CHAIRMAN invited the French, German and United Kingdom Delegates to reconsider their position on the basis of what they had just heard.
10. The FRENCH Delegate stated that upon resumption of the debate he would endeavour to answer questions put to him by the United States Delegate as to French use of this equipment. So far he remained unconvinced that the uses were essentially strategic.
11. The GERMAN Delegate said that he would report the discussions to his authorities but was unable to predict whether or not their view would change.
12. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate stated that, if it were the unanimous view of the Committee that this item should be placed under embargo, his Government would not place any obstacle in the way of agreement.
13. The FRENCH Delegate said that if supplementary information demonstrated that the equipment was predominantly used for military purposes, his Delegation would take the same position as that of the United Kingdom.
14. The GERMAN Delegate having enquired whether the United States would also report the discussions, the UNITED STATES Delegate said that he would of course do so, and added that he had already asked his authorities to study the possibility of a cut-off. If a reply reached them in time, they would submit a new memorandum before the next discussion.
15. The COMMITTEE agreed to resume the study of the proposed new item on the 15th December.

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